

Paper Mache Tips and Hints

Learn How to Paper Mache

By [Sherri Osborn](#), About.com Guide

Make your next paper mache project more successful using these tips and hints. If you have a great paper mache tip, take a moment to [share it with us](#) and it could be posted here.

- Paper mache is a very messy craft! Make sure to cover your work surface, or you can even do it outside if weather permits. Make sure you cover yourself also!
- Some creations can take several days to finish, so be prepared and be patient! Sometimes you will have to work for a little time every day adding new layers to your project.
- You want to make sure your paper mache project is completely dry before you paint and decorate it.
- Always tear your newspaper into strips instead of cutting them. For some reason the torn paper lays better on paper mache creation.
- To help your creation last longer, seal it with [varnish](#) or [acrylic sealing spray](#) when you are done painting it.
- For a natural look, use brown paper towels for the final layer of your creation.
- When you lay the newspaper strips onto your paper mache project, make the strips go in as many different directions as possible as it will make your finished project stronger.
- If you live in a humid climate assemble you paper mache project using glue rather than a flour and water mixture or try using a little less water in the recipe you follow.

- When working with a round object set it on top of a bowl or large-mouthed cup while you are working on it so it sits still.
- If you do not like the smell of your flour and water mixture, try adding a touch of cinnamon to sweeten it up.